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Iraq Plot Born In Bern, New Red Spy Center

By FRANK H. BARTHOLOMEW

President, United Press International

The Iraqi revolt was "born in Bern," Western counter-intelligence agents indicated today.

A sudden increase in the movement of Communist agents by air from Moscow via Prague to Zurich and on to Bern, and of military and political representatives of the United Arab Republic was observed and in some instances secretly recorded in motion pictures made at airports, this correspondent was told.

Bern, because of the neutral position of Switzerland, which is free from all blocs, either Communist or western, has been a regular meeting place for the Algerian rebels and their Communist supporters.

Here the Lebanon crisis was hatched, and many of the political action and propaganda plots which are tossed to the surface in the satellite states, Indonesia, Red China and the Middle East.

Switzerland has clearly become the Communist spy center for the Arab world as well as all of Europe.

Bern, the ancient capital, is again the hub of the wheel, as it was in World War II, when Allen Q. Dulles, now head of the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, directed American counterintelligence from that city.

"ALTHOUGH the total is hard to ascertain, there is reason to believe that the Communists send out an average of \$1 million per week from Switzerland to spies, provocateurs and saboteurs for their work in the western democracies," Henry J. Taylor, United States ambassador to Switzerland, told United Press International.

Taylor says that this is one of the basic reasons that the western powers regard Switzerland, with its 70 foreign missions from the worlds of Communism and democracy, as "the No. 1 listening post for Europe and the Middle East."

"The Red agents' target is the free world, and they load up their ammunition in Zurich, Gageva and Bern," Taylor said.

Here they come to make reports and to receive orders for future activities and faked credentials for implementing them.

Transfer of currencies from the issue of one nation to that of another is facilitated, since Switzerland has recognized not only the western powers and Russia, but also the latter's satellites.

A SECOND REASON the transfer of spy activities from Prague to Switzerland was advantageous to the Reds is because of Switzerland's central location as the hub of a complex of modern rail and air lines fanning out in all directions. There are direct daily schedules to Moscow via change of airlines in Prague or Vienna, although Russian airline or aircraft is permitted to fly into Switzerland itself where national feeling appears to be solidly anti-Communist.

The Communists have operated with a careful eye to the strict Swiss laws against espionage, this reporter was told in Zurich.

"The gathering place for agents and principals and the 'cashier's office' for payments is rotated among the various satellite embassies and missions in Bern."

"Important gatherings of Communist agents seldom are held in the large embassy of the USSR itself. The Kremlin

doesn't want to take a chance on an upset or arrest that will directly reflect on the USSR."

THE COMMUNIST intelligence web centering in Bern is an enormous and expensive operation and calls for large-scale measures in counter espionage by all the western powers, Ambassador Taylor said.

None of this intensifying activity between the world's major opposing forces is visible to the nation's thousands of seasonal tourists, who are unaware of the growing army of secret agents among them.

But to Ambassador Taylor it is a "growing and relentless problem, for the security of the United States is at stake."

"We have evolved counter-measures of our own," says Taylor, which are not infrequently, for reasons of our own, we permit known or suspected agents to enter western nations and even operate there. Often our own men have been caught. And in such counter-spy operations, the United States has the long heroes of "cold war."

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